Development Plan for Economic of Assam

3054. DR. (SMT.) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is considering to formulate and implement a comprehensive development plan for economic regeneration of Assam in view of the widening gap between the all India average per capita income and per capita income of Assam during the last 50 years inspite of the three packages announced by the successive Prime Minister ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) As in the case of other States, Governments of Assam and India have formulated several schemes and projects for the development of Assam. A large numbers of projects, included in the PM's Packages and Shukla Commission Recommendations, have been completed/taken up for implementation. Further, following policy initiatives have also been taken to augment the resource base of the North-Eastern States, including Assam :—

(i) 30% of Normal Central Assistance is earmarked for Special Category States which include N. E. States.

(ii) 90% of plan assistance is grant and 10% loan as against 30% grant and 70% loan for other States.

(iii) State contribution of 15%, which is mandatory for the Basic Minimum Services schemes, is not applicable to N. E. States.

(iv) 10% of plan provision of the Central Ministries/Departments has been earmarked for development of N. E. States.

(v) Over and above the state plan outlays, which have been increasing over the years, funds are also being sanctioned out of the Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources created through transfer of unspent balance of the earmarked outlays of the Central Ministries and Departments meant for development of the N. E. States.

(vi) The North Eastern Council is also engaged in the development of infrastructure in the Region. Projects entailing an annual outlay of Rs. 450 crore are being implemented by the N. E. Council in 2000-01.

(vii) Special dispensation has been made in respect of the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) by incorporating minor irrigation projects for the North-Eastern States and allowing 25% of the State's share, as against 33% for others, in availing of Central Loan Assistance.

(viii) Diversion to the extent of 20% of the Normal Central Assistance (Plan) is allowed for Non-plan purposes.

Following steps have been taken to optimise benefits of the schemes/projects being implemented in the Region :—

(i) Monitoring of implementation of schemes/programmes in the Region on quarterly basis.

(ii) Involvement of public sector undertakings like NEEPCO, BHEL, Border Road Organisation etc. in implementation of projects, as far as possible.

(iii) Channelizing of Non-Lapsable funds through Central Ministries/ Departments, wherever necessary.

(iv) Sensitising the States on the need of reducing the non-plan expenditure.

Irrigation Projects under RIDF

3055. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any meeting of State Chief Secretaries was called in New Delhi recently by the Planning Commission to discuss the issue of time and cost over runs bogging the irrigation projects under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) schemes ;

(b) what amount was allocated for irrigation project and road construction by RIDF and actually disbursed during 2000-2001, State-wise ;

(c) whether any "Viable projects" study undertaken in this regard either by RIDF of State level body before allocation of funds ; and

(d) what amount till date has been sanctioned by NABARD for these irrigation projects ?